



WASHOE COUNTY

"Dedicated To Excellence in Public Service"

www.washoecounty.us

CM/ACM	<u>VS</u>
Finance	<u>BN</u>
DA	<u>N/A</u>
Risk Mgt.	<u>N/A</u>
HR	<u>N/A</u>
Other	<u>N/A</u>

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 9, 2014

DATE: November 14, 2014
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Don C. Jeppson, County Building Official
Building & Safety, 328-2030, dajeppson@washoecounty.us
THROUGH: Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Director
Community Services Department, 328-2040, dsolaro@washoecounty.us
SUBJECT: Presentation: Proposed utility permit application that can be used on smart devices such as cell phones and tablets. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

With new technologies there are new opportunities to streamline current permit processes. One opportunity is to examine utility permits for replacing water heaters and furnaces. Contractors tend to resist obtaining these types of permits due to the staff time it takes to get permits and pass inspections. Even when the contractors get permits, they will often try to push the responsibility of getting inspections onto the homeowner. In any case, very few permits are issued and even less are inspected which poses potential fire and life safety issues.

This electronic solution will allow minimal oversight and monitoring for responsible contractors that have successfully demonstrated their ability to comply with the code requirements for these types of replacements and will keep the cost of utility permits low.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On June 17, 2014, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement Establishing the Regional Business License and Permits Program among the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and the Washoe County Health District concerning the governance and implementation of a Regional License and Permit Program, effective from execution signing date through June 30, 2020, and authorize automatic renewals beginning July 1, 2020, unless otherwise terminated as per the Agreement; approved the Washoe County Business License and Permits System Contract between Washoe County and Accela, Inc. totaling \$1,580,074.66 for a Regional License and Permit Program; authorized that the project budget be \$1,667,444.32, which includes the Accela contract and 5.5% of additional funding for project changes; finally, directed staff to return prior to project implementation with a regional technology fee to recover portions of the project's costs (fee to only be implemented after go live of the platform).

AGENDA ITEM # 21

BACKGROUND

Before the recession, there was an idea to encourage contractors to obtain more utility permits by reducing barriers to those permits. This included reducing contractors' staff time waiting for inspections by allowing contractor self-inspections with an audit process instead of the traditional inspection process. Clark County piloted a program circa 2010 and found through the audit process that contractors were not inspecting the work and work was not being done to code.

Washoe County's proposed plan was to have the contractor review a custom checklist with the customer and both would acknowledge the checklist was complete. If during the audit inspection process, it is discovered that the code requirements were not being met by the contractor, then the contractor would not be allowed to self-inspect until the contractor could successfully demonstrate their ability to comply with the code requirements through the normal inspection process. Through technology and this audit process, public safety of utility permits can be enhanced by tracing and monitoring the contractor's performance while minimizing the time and cost of obtaining a permit.

FISCAL IMPACT

Responsible contractors who routinely demonstrate their ability to comply with code requirements will save time and money under this program. Permit volumes should increase revenue while keeping permit costs low and inspection resources focused on problem installations which will improve fire and life safety in the community.

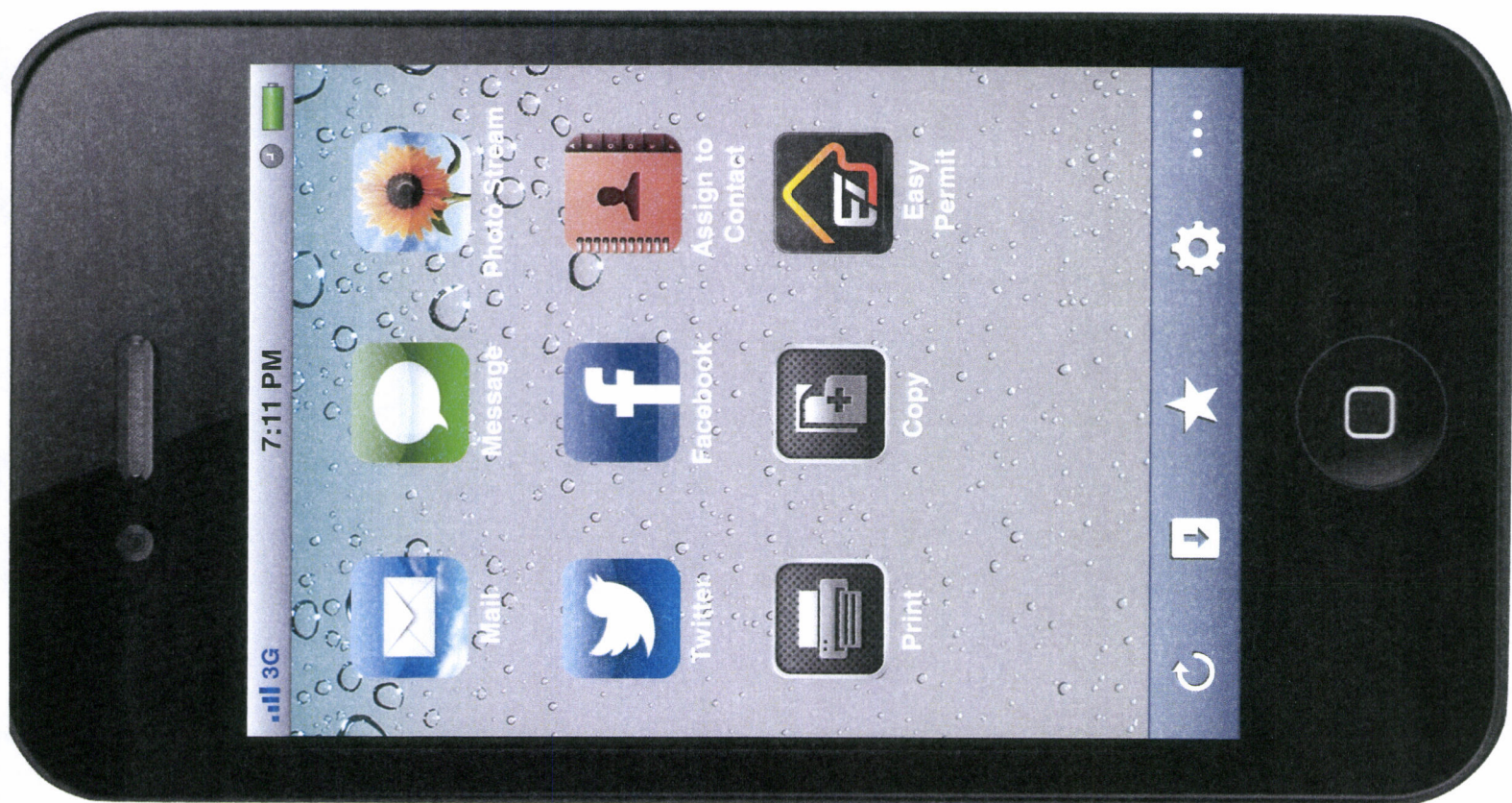
RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge receipt of the presentation on a utility permit application that can be used on smart devices such as cell phones and tablets.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the recommendation, a possible motion would be:

"Move to acknowledge receipt of the presentation on a utility permit application that can be used on smart devices such as cell phones and tablets."



Select Activity

Apply for Permit

Complete Checklist

Schedule Inspection

Back

Enter Permit Number

1 2 3

4 5 6

7 8 9

0 

Back

1 of 10

Next



Enter your pin

1 2 3

4 5 6

7 8 9

0 

Back

2 of 10

Next



Select Method

Electronic Checklist

Paper Checklist

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Next



Checklist

Gas Hot Water Heater Section Information

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Two Seismic Straps | > |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Checklist Item | > |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Checklist Item | > |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Checklist item | > |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Checklist Item | > |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Checklist Item | > |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Checklist Item | > |

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Checklist

Gas Hot Water Heater

Section Information

<input type="checkbox"/>	Checklist Item	>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Checklist Item	>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Checklist Item	>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Checklist item	>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Checklist Item	>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Checklist Item	>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Checklist Item	>

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Additional Information

Seismic Straps
Section Information

Code

Photos

Guide

Other

Back



Additional Information

Seismic Straps

Code

P2801.7 Water heater seismic bracing.

In Seismic Design Categories D0, D1 and D2 and townhouses in Seismic Design Category C, water heaters shall be anchored or strapped in the upper one-third and in the lower one-third of the appliance to resist a horizontal force equal to one-third of the operating weight of the water heater, acting in any horizontal direction, or in accordance with the appliance manufacturer's recommendations.

The mechanical section of the code (M1307.2) states that all appliances need to be fastened or anchored in an approved

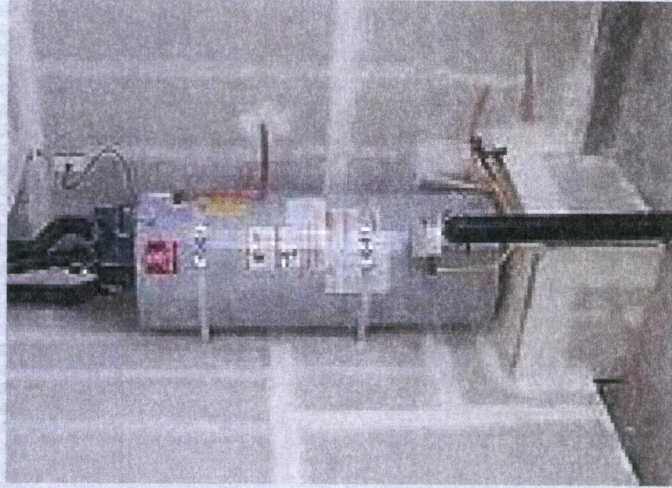
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Additional Information

Seismic Straps

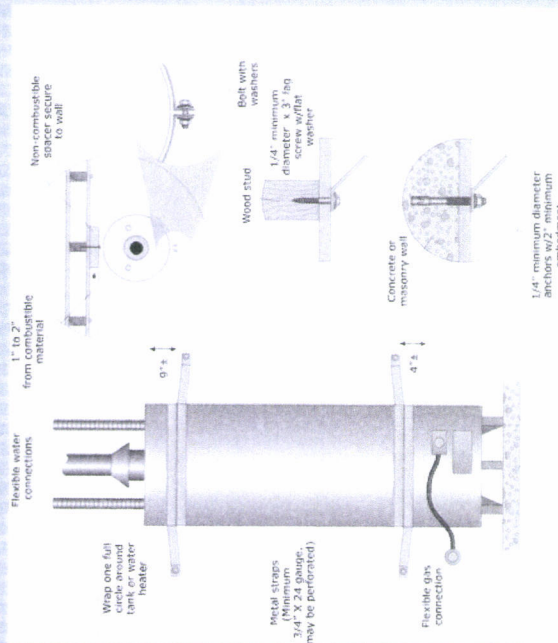
Photo



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Additional Information

Seismic Straps Guide



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Upload Documents

Select Documents to Upload Guide

Select File



Select File



Select File



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Next

Request an Inspection

Request an Inspection

Do you want to schedule an inspection?

No

Yes

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Next

Terms & Conditions

All Responses are subject to release as public information unless the Response or specific parts of the Response can be shown to be exempt from the Nevada Public Information Act. Respondents are advised to consult with their legal counsel regarding disclosure issues and take the appropriate precautions to safeguard trade secrets or any other proprietary information. The County assumes no obligation or responsibility for asserting legal arguments on behalf of potential Respondents.

All Responses are subject to release as public information unless the Response or



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AGREE

Signatures

Installer's Name

John Doe



Installer's Signature

Signature

A large white rectangular box intended for the installer's signature.

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Next



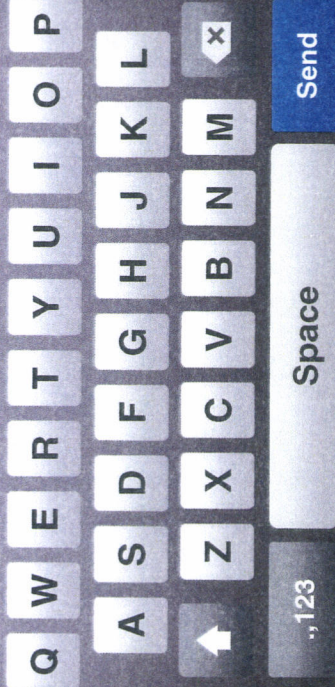
Signatures

Customer's Name

Customer's Name

Customer's Signature

Signature



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Next



Signatures

Customer's Name

Customer's Name

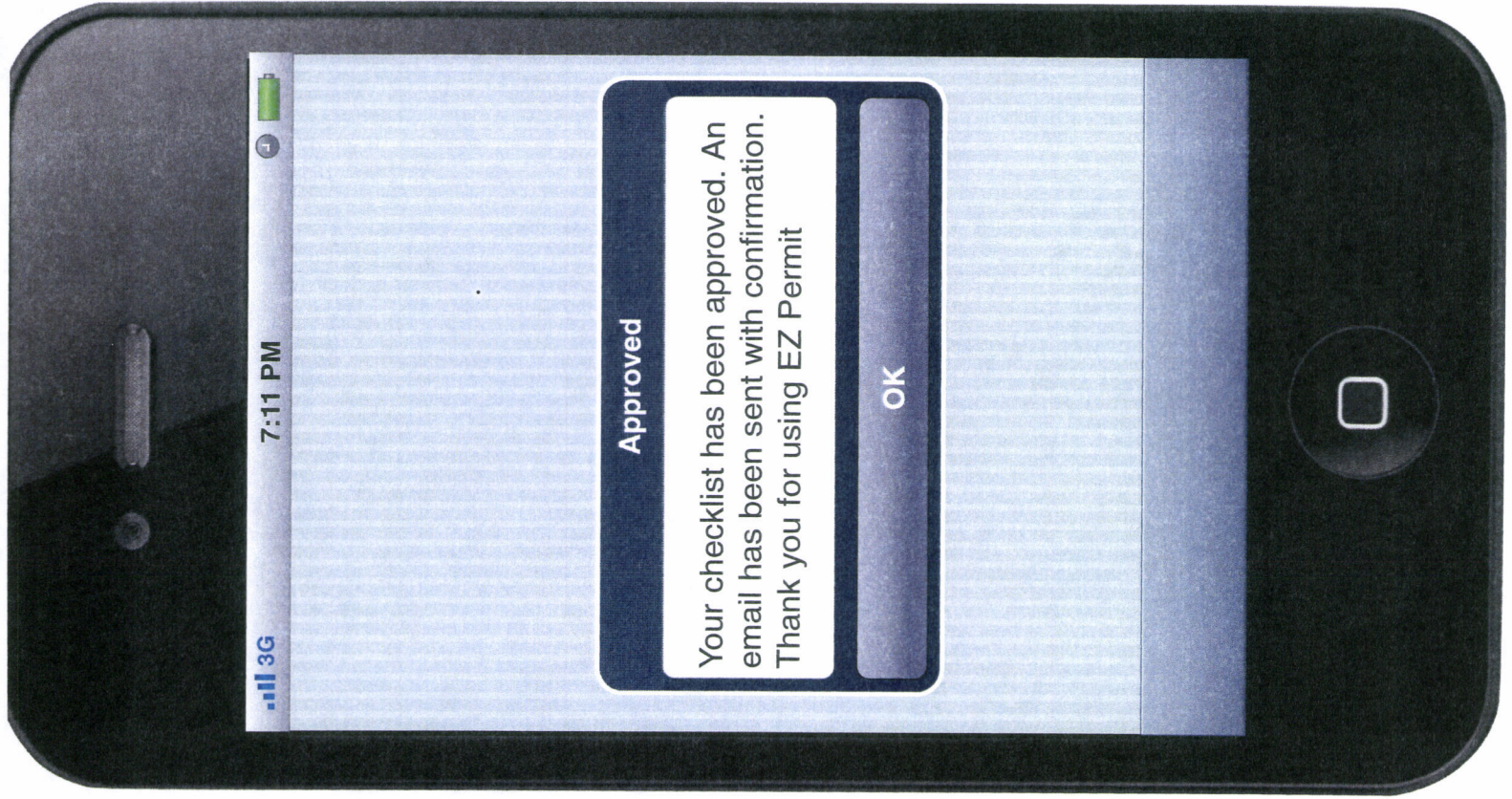
Customer's Signature

Signature

Submit

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3G

7:11 PM



Approved

Your checklist has been approved. An email has been sent with confirmation. Thank you for using EZ Permit

OK

3G

7:11 PM



Selected for Inspection

You have been selected for an inspection. Please schedule an inspection. An email has been sent as confirmation.

Done

Schedule



3G

7:11 PM

Schedule Inspection

Select Date

Thursday, April 27, 2014

Friday, April, 28, 2014

Monday, May 1, 2014

Tuesday, May 2, 2014

Wednesday, May, 3, 2014

Schedule

3G

7:11 PM



Inspection Scheduled

Your Inspection has been schedule for
May 1, 2014. Please call (775) 328-
2020 on day of inspection for
inspection time.

OK

Upload Documents

Select Documents to Upload
Guide

Select File



Select File



Select File



Submit

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